

REMARKS

The allowance of claims 61-68 is gratefully acknowledged.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 43-44 and 52-53 as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,041,020 to Caron is respectfully requested.

Caron relates solely to a system using a continuous wave (CW) laser. There is no disclosure or suggestion of using a pulsed or chopped laser beam as required by the independent claims of the present application and as detailed in the specification, for example, at page 7, line 7. Although the Examiner referred the applicant to only a short section of Caron, the applicant has reviewed Caron in its entirety and found only a discussion of CW laser systems.

The instant specification discusses CW laser systems in detail in the specification at page 2, first paragraph. The specification goes on to state from page 3, paragraph 2 onwards the specific disadvantages of CW laser systems and the advantages of the invention as claimed in the present application.

Accordingly, Caron does not disclose a system as claimed in claims 43, 44, 52 and 53.

Petition is hereby made for a one-month extension of the period to respond to the outstanding Official Action to December 7, 2002. A check in the amount of \$110.00, as the Petition fee, is enclosed herewith. If there are any additional charges, or any overpayment, in connection with the filing of the amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such deficiency, or credit any such overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-1145.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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